

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, line 21 through page 10, line 2 with the following paragraph:

Figure 5 is a flowchart illustrating operations for maintaining association integrity of EJBs during EJB passivation and reactivation according to some embodiments of the present invention. As shown in Figure 5, at Block **510**, a collection of target ~~EJBs~~EJBs, such as EJBs **320** and/or **420**, that are associated with a source EJB, such as EJB **310** in a one-to-many or many-to-many association, such as the association **330**, is obtained, in response to traversing the one-to-many or many-to-many association **330** of the source EJB **310**. Then, at Block **520**, the collection **320** and/or **420** of target EJBs that are associated with a source EJB **310** is registered in a collection registry, such as the collection registry **410** of Figure 4. In some embodiments, operations of Block **520** may be performed in response to passivation of the source EJB. In other embodiments, the operations of Block **520** may be performed whenever a collection of target EJBs is obtained at Block **510**.